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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1294
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 2219
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 2209
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RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE 0856
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 0626
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE 0912
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE 9241
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/24/2017

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SUBJECT: ISRAELI MFA INFORMED OF URGENT REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE TO LEBANESE ARMED FORCES

REF: STATE 70449

Classified By: Ambassador Richard H. Jones. Reasons: 1.4 (b)(d).

(C) Responding to the Ambassador's briefing on reftel demarche, Israeli MFA Director General Aharon Abramovitch told Ambassador May 24 that he would ensure that the information would be shared with the relevant authorities in Israel's government. The Ambassador also noted that he understood that Saudi Arabia may provide the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) financial and/or airlift assistance, and that the U.S. may provide emergency assistance from our own stocks in the region. Abramovitch expressed surprise that the LAF is in such a difficult situation concerning its stocks. While acknowledging that Syria may be backing Fatah al-Islam with equipment and ammunition, he said it would be difficult to imagine a situation in which the LAF would engage in a direct fight with Syria. The Ambassador agreed, but thought it equally unlikely that Syria would risk direct intervention in the current situation.

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JONES